

June 11, 1981

Open Burning Observed at Acme Salvage in Ashtabula, Ohio (no request number)

Daniel C. Watson
THRU: A. R. Winkhofer, Director, EDO

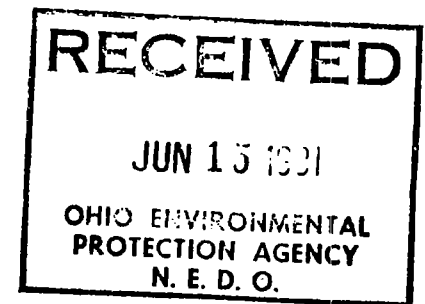
Stephanie Valentine
Engineering Section, SEAE

While on a June 2, 1981 water survey in Ashtabula, Charles Beier and Joseph Good of EDO noticed open burning at Acme Salvage and Scrap at State and Middle Roads. They noticed the burning from 1405 through 1420 EDST. The smoke was a very dense black and had a strong odor of burning rubber or insulation. Photographs were taken from Middle Road at a railroad crossing and will be sent at a later date.

The writer visited the site on May 21, 1981 on a complaint that the company was burning power transformers possibly containing PCB. During this visit a sight was found where transformers had been burned and PCB samples were collected. There were three unburned transformers at the facility during this visit.

Attachment

✓ cc: Chris Frazier, OEPA - NEDO



OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORT

NEEDS
DistrictAshtabula
County6-10-81
Date Received

Date(s) Investigated

TYPE

Cal _____
itten _____
tarized _____
budsman _____
gislative _____
her _____
Official _____
Office _____

Air _____
Ground Water _____
Industrial Water ☒ _____
Sewage Water _____
Other _____

COMPLAINANT: (name, address, phone)

Craig Nueman 1-969-1665
@4 or 5

ALLEGED POLLUTER: (name, address, phone)

Acme Scrap
Ashtabula

OFFICIALS CONTACTED: (name, position, phone number, date and time of contact)

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINANT: A tan or brown 4wd pickup truck was observed around 12:30 backed up to Fields Brook at State Rd. The truck had 55 gal drums in the back with hoses coming from them. The truck pulled from the site when Mr. Nueman was watching & went into Acme Scrap. There were no plates on the truck.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGED POLLUTER:

FINDINGS: Justified _____ Not Justified _____

COMMENTS:

OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY -- COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORT

DISTRICT	COUNTY	DATE RECEIVED	DATE(S) INVESTIGATED
NEDO	Ashtabula	May 8, 1981	May 8, 1981
TYPE	AIR	WATER	COMPLAINANT: (Name, Address, Phone)
Telephone	Industrial	Industrial	Chris Frazier
Visit	Particulate	Ground	Ohio EPA
Letter	Odor	Sewage	
Verified	Fugitive Dust	Other	SUSPECTED SOURCE: (Name, Address, Phone)
DCN	Open Burning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Acme Scrap Iron
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other		P.O. Box 218
			Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 998-2820

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINANT:

Noted dense, black smoke pouring out of scrap yard.

STATEMENT OF SOURCE: Joe Kemp, Vice Pres., & Sam Simon, Owner, stated that the oil from a CEI transformer had been accidentally ignited by a cutting torch. They said the employees must have forgotten to check if the transformer had been previously drained. He said they were fighting the fire with their 500 gal. water truck. According to Larry Tackett, employee, the fire began at approximately 11:15 a.m. and involved approximately 15 gals. of oil.

FINDINGS: Justified ☒ Not Justified ☐ Questionable ☐

A fire was observed in what appeared to be a green transformer. It was located in the yard behind a large, gray building. The fire was being watered at the time of the investigation but the extinguishant was not doing an adequate job of eliminating the fire.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE OF WRITTEN FOLLOW UP May 19, 1981

Recommended that "Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)" contain provision requiring mandatory inspection of every transformer for left-over oil. Also suggested strict enforcement of this provision.

CORRECTIVE ACTION AGREED TO BY SOURCE:

Inspect all transformers for left-over oil.

COMMENTS:

According to Ashtabula Township Fire Department, the 500 gal. water truck is filled with a "garden hose." This filling procedure severely hinders Acme Scrap's ability to control these types of fires.

INVESTIGATOR: Chris Frazier

DATE COMPLETED: May 28, 1981

cc: Dennis Lee, Ind. WW Melinda Becker, OLPC